



Derek Luyten, Executive Director



Derek Luyten currently serves as the Executive Director of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), a bipartisan commission of the House of Representatives that works to promote responsive, effective government and strengthen democratic institutions by assisting legislatures in emerging democracies. Mr. Luyten advises Members of Congress on developments related to HDP partner countries and to U.S. democracy and governance programs more broadly, including preparing Members to participate in congressional delegations and other HDP programs. Luyten also oversees the development and implementation of all HDP programs, including outbound congressional and staff delegations, U.S.-based training programs, ad hoc technical assistance missions, and periodic assessments of current or prospective partner countries.

Before joining HDP, Mr. Luyten worked as a democracy and technology consultant with international development organizations to embrace democracy as a core design principle. Luyten provided strategic vision, leadership, and planning for development organizations looking to build and strengthen strategic partnerships with global technology firms while assisting in program design and resource mobilization on issues relating to technology and electoral integrity.

Prior, Mr. Luyten served as the Regional Director for Asia at the International Republican Institute (IRI). Responsible for overseeing U.S. and foreign donor grants and guiding program development and implementation in 15 countries in Asia, Luyten expanded the portfolio to include new program countries and initiatives, rendering it one of the largest at IRI. Luyten also spearheaded an organization-wide effort to collaborate with tech companies to preserve electoral integrity, resulting in IRI's first partnership.

Mr. Luyten also served as the Director for IRI's Thailand and Malaysia programs based in Bangkok, overseeing programs on public opinion research and political and civic engagement. Mr. Luyten worked in a variety of posts throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), including Country Director in Morocco implementing local governance programs, and nearly three years on the Iraq program as the Director for Political Parties and Research. While working in MENA he established new programs in Tunisia and Libya after the start of the Arab Spring, touching down in Tunis, Tunisia just days after the fall of the Ben Ali regime.

Over the years Mr. Luyten served as a foreign election observer 12 times and as a political appointee in the Treasury Department in the office of the U.S. Treasurer. Luyten is fluent in French, proficient in Spanish, and earned a master's degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife and two children.